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Excerpt from Report of Proceedings

**Hearing Held Before
Preparedness Investigating Subcommittee
of the Committee on Armed Services**

Inquiry into Satellite and Missile Programs

Friday - December 13, 1957

I hope that some vehicle of that kind will quickly evolve because I believe we are burning a lot of daylight, and I commend you for your efforts and your work.

Mr. Holaday. Thank you, sir.

Senator Stennis. I believe that Senator Bush is next.

Senator Bush?

Senator Bush. Mr. Chairman, before I ask any questions, I desire to use part of my time to make a statement for the record concerning a matter which I am very much concerned about.

I have been deeply shocked by the failure of this subcommittee to safeguard secrets entrusted to it in executive session, and by the failure of some elements of the press to refrain from publishing information which may be of great value to our potential enemy.

Mr. Allen Dulles, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, testified before us when these hearings began two weeks ago; because public disclosure of the information he wished to present might endanger the security of the United States, we heard Mr. Dulles behind closed doors.

The session was so closely guarded that even United States Senators who were not members of the Armed Services Committee were excluded by order of the subcommittee chairman.

Yet a few days later articles began appearing in various

news media attempting to repeat what Mr. Allen Dulles told us

For example, the December 9th issue of News Week Magazine on page 58 under the head line "Russia's missile fire power -- cold facts", published an article purporting to give an account of our briefing by Mr. Allen Dulles.

I do not intend to give aid and comfort to the enemy by confirming or denying anything which appeared in that article, but there is some evidence that it may have been written on the basis of information which had been leaked to the writer by someone among those present at this briefing.

I recognize the right of the American people to know all the facts concerning our national security which can be disclosed with safety.

I recognize that publishing is a fiercely competitive business and that reporters and editors work under great pressure to produce scoops.

But Mr. Chairman, the right of the American people to survival is superior to their right to know.

If we hand all our secrets to our potential enemy on a platter by publication in the press, the American people may find themselves well informed but vanquished.

Breaches of security are not confined to this one instance. Almost every day we pick up our newspapers and magazines and find published information which might endanger our national security. One may sometimes wonder why the Russians bother to have a spy system when so much of

the information they seek is printed in the press, and I recall, I may say parenthetically, that Dr. Vannevar Bush made that observation himself when he was a witness here before this committee.

Mr. Chairman, we should talk less and publish less and accomplish more. I hope that in these dangerous times a higher sense of responsibility for safeguarding national secrets will guide both those privy to such information and also members of the press.

There has been too much pressure for secret information on the part of the press and too much loose talk by some people in official life.

The breaches of security which followed Mr. Dulles' secret testimony may well have been the work of this committee, this subcommittee. It undoubtedly will be necessary to hold future executive sessions in order to obtain top secret and secret information about our missile programs.

Mr. Holaday has said that some of the information which counsel sought from him this morning could only be given behind closed doors.

In view of the leaks which followed Mr. Dulles' appearance, what government official can be sure that classified information he provides us will not be turned over to Russians via the press?

It may well prevent a full disclosure which the Armed

Services Committee should have in order to form intelligent judgments.

Mr. Chairman, I hope we may have an opportunity to discuss this matter further when the committee meets in executive session.

Senator Johnson. I should like to say for the information of the committee that I talked to the Senator from Connecticut about this matter briefly this morning.

I deplore as he does any information that is ever given in executive session being revealed. I don't think that I have ever been guilty of that in the twenty years that I have served on the Armed Services Committee.

I see in the newspapers leaks that come from my colleagues every day, from Senators every day, and also from the Executive Department every day.

I will say to the Senator from Connecticut that I hope he will send a copy of that to the Executive Department, because I have obtained a great deal of my information on foreign and domestic policy from the front page of the New York Times.

I don't condone leaks. I don't know which one of the Senators gave it out if any Senator actually gave it out or if a member of the staff gave it out.

It seems that Mr. Dulles had his opinion about who might have discussed it with some members on this side of the

aisle and he had his opinion of who might have when he discussed it from the Senator from Connecticut and they were two different people.

Senator Bush. He did not mention any person in discussing it with me.

Senator Johnson. I thought the Senator gave me the definite impression that he felt that it was some particular member this morning.

Senator Bush. He may have had one in mind, but he did not mention him to me by name.

Senator Johnson. I did not get the full implications of the Senator's statement. I thought that he felt that perhaps it was a member of the majority.

Senator Bush. He may well have thought that but he did not give me any name.

Senator Johnson. That was the impression I got from the Senator.

Senator Bush. The Senator might have gotten that impression.

Senator Johnson. Did the Senator intend to leave that impression?

Senator Bush. I did not say it was my impression.

Senator Johnson. Did the Senator say it was Mr. Dulles' impression?

Senator Bush. I said that Mr. Dulles voiced the thought

that it might have been some Senator, but he did not pinpoint it at all.

Senator Johnson. I thought the Senator --

Senator Bush. The Chairman here and I are getting into a little bit of an argument now.

We are both on the same side I think, but the Chairman's suggestion to me when I spoke to him privately was that possibly this had been one of my colleagues on the Republican side.

Senator Johnson. That is correct.

Senator Bush. I said possibly it was but I did not think it was Mr. Dulles' thought when he spoke to me.

Senator Johnson. I think that was the thought when he spoke to us, so whether it is a Democrat or a Republican, I guess it is being played both ways. It is a situation to be deplored and I do deplore the action. I have limited the number of people to attend this to as many as I can. I have asked my colleagues who are not members of the full committee to not even participate.

I asked Senators who are not members of the Armed Services Committee to leave the room.

Senator Bush. I confined the staff group to a very limited few, all with the highest clearance, and I deplore what has happened, although I will say to the

Senator that it is not unusual, that it has happened in the

Legislative before on practically every briefing, some kind of information comes out of it.

When we learn to control Senators, why you will have a formula that I have not been able to obtain.

I hope that the Congress never provides as many leaks as the Executive Department does. I have felt for some time that a great deal of the information that I could get on foreign defense policy first was revealed through the press.

Senator Bush. Mr. Chairman, may I say first in raising this point I did not raise it on a partisan basis.

Senator Johnson. Nor did I.

Senator Bush. I did not do that with any implication that it might have been a Senator on your side of the table or on this side, because I honestly don't know.

I did raise it after you told me that it might be one on my side, and I just want to make it clear that I do not raise this as a partisan matter.

The Chairman has been very wise and very diplomatic in keeping these hearings on a non-partisan basis, and I certainly do not want to appear not to fully support him in that very worthy effort, so I trust the Senator will understand me fully on that point.

And I further thank the Senator for putting in the record that I did discuss the matter with him before I ventured to make my statement, and told him I intended to

make some remarks on this subject.

Senator Johnson. The Chairman did not hear all that the Senator from Connecticut said but what he heard he fully embraces and he does not seek to sit in judgment on his colleagues. He does not know or does not care which side of the aisle it came from. He trusts it won't be repeated. He has pled with the Senators to observe the rules under which this information is given to us, and when he was first notified of it in Texas and asked for his comment, I said that I would not attach much importance or much credence to any information that came from a person who received that information about his country as top secret information and then revealed it.

I would not give much credence to it, and I think that that is the way that type of information ought to be treated.

I hope that we don't spend a lot of our time trying to give top secret information out that can help only the enemy.

I appreciate what the Senator has said.

Senator Bush. Mr. Chairman, I just want to make it amply clear that my comments are not even remotely to be considered as any criticism of the Chairman.

On the contrary, I feel that he is doing a splendid job here, and I support everything that he has done. I also support his statement about the executive branch in matters of this kind, and I hope that they will pay some attention

to these remarks, if they ever do come to their attention.

Senator Johnson. I appreciate very much the high level of the Senator's statement, and I think if he has concluded, that is a good time to end.

Senator Bush. I have concluded the statement but I wonder if the Senator would not let me finish my time.

Senator Johnson. Sure.

Now will the Senator yield for me to make a very brief statement?

Senator Bush. I will be glad to yield for that purpose.

Senator Johnson. While we are in such perfect accord, I should like to say to the members of the committee that after we lunched together today and I told them of my understanding that the President was leaving at five o'clock this afternoon to attend the meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, that I felt that I would like to call him and say to him that the members of the committee, both Republicans and Democrats, were thinking of him, and that our thoughts and our prayers went with him as he left, and we hoped that he would have a successful meeting.

I told him that on yesterday I had been asked a question in a speech that I was making in Texas about the matter, and I told him that I thought he was going to great sacrifices.

Certainly he was not going as an Atlantic sightseer, or a tourist because he had seen Paris before, but he was

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